

FREMONT BOARD OF SELECTMEN**24 JULY 2008****APPROVED 07/31/2008**

Due to scheduling problems and the days severe weather, the meeting did not open until 7:30 pm upon the arrival of Selectman Gates. Also present were Selectmen Brett Hunter, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, and Police Chief Neal Janvrin.

Chief Janvrin met with the Board to discuss the employee evaluation process that the Board had concerns regarding the process of the review. The rating system was discussed in terms of setting goals and basic expectations.

Chief Janvrin said he saw their side of it, but also said he saw a different side in the employees who meet the top criteria., in that they are doing exactly what is expected of them.

Gates said that someone doing something above and beyond is what makes them exceed expectations and reach that highest criteria.

Gates briefly discussed the 2008 budget process in that they had come in for the detective car, and withdrew it when the Selectmen told Chief Janvrin that they could not support it. He indicated that he felt the Budget Committee had been circumvented by Lieutenant Bassett's presentation on the floor of Town Meeting. Janvrin said he did not know about that until it happened on the floor. Discussion on this matter continued.

At the request of Chief Janvrin, Gates moved to approve the step raise for Jason Grant to Grade 8 Step 8. Hunter seconded it and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Chief Janvrin left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

At 7:59 pm Annmarie Scribner, Tax Collector, came in to meet with the Board to discuss the pending tax deeds. She has deeds for the Iacozzi/Torromeo Property at 127 Karlin Road and two parcels of land on Shirkin Road owned by the Estate of Edna G Hoitt.

There was a pending deed for property at 24 Susan's Way, owned by Lawrence Dodge. With regard to the Dodge property on Susan's Way, Scribner talked this evening with Art Powell at North Mass Telephone Workers Credit Union, who was authorized on behalf of the Senior Vice President Paul Duff, to assure her that a check will be cut tomorrow for the 2005 full amount due. They are also looking at taking care of the 2006 and 2007 taxes well. With this guarantee, Scribner had not executed this deed.

A letter was received on Wednesday from Attorney John Daly representing Iacozzi indicating that they wanted another 30 days to be able to pay the 2005 taxes that are due to be deeded.

Carlson indicated that Henry Torromeo had phoned the office on Tuesday indicating that they were nearing a closing on the property (believed to be Iacozzi buying out the Torromeo share). It had been scheduled for July 11th but was postponed. He said this was due to happen shortly, and was urged to send a letter for the Board's review prior to this meeting. No letter had been forthcoming for this evenings meeting.

Given the information on hand, and considering the Town's time frame to do something with the deeds, motion was made by Gates and seconded by Hunter to allow 14 days for the Iacozzi and Torromeo 2005 taxes to be paid or the Town will have to accept the deed. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Scribner presented the deeds for parcels 05-027 and 05-060 owned by the Estate of Edna G Hoitt in care of Clara Brenda Stanton. Repeated attempts (in addition to all of the official notices sent by the Tax

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Collector's Office) were made by the Selectmen's Office. This was the only property for which there had been no contact from the owner.

After some discussion about the process, Gates moved to sign for acceptance of the tax deed on parcel 05-027, a 1.3 acre parcel of land and parcel 05-060, a 3.5 acre parcel of land, both on Shirkin Road and taxed to the Estate of Edna G Hoitt. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 2-0. The Board will hold these deeds pending receipt from Scribner of all the past notice information on the properties to be sure the Town's file is complete.

The Board will also abate the taxes as of this evening for the years 2005-2007 based on the tax deeded status. Scribner will put the abatement amounts together and forms will be signed as soon as possible, effective 07/24/08.

Scribner left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 17 July 2008. Motion was made by Gates to approve these minutes as written. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

2. Carlson discussed the finalization of the wage study with Selectmen. The Board would like to schedule time to review with Barry Cox, the NH LGC representative who has put the study together. This will be scheduled as soon as feasible given the desire to use the schedule for 2009 budgeting.

3. Carlson discussed with the Board repairs to the highway shed as quoted by Dzioba Construction. The insurance company has not yet made a determination, but today Kathleen Casey at NH LGC authorized the Town to proceed with repairs. Motion was made by Gates and seconded by Hunter to authorize the repair work to be done by Dzioba Construction for the sum of \$4,782.00 at the Fremont Highway Shed, with funding to come from the Highway budget, followed by the government buildings budget, with the transfer lines to be reviewed once determined. The vote was unanimously approved and Carlson will contact Dzioba Construction to get a schedule for the work.

4. Carlson had the Board review the draft Public Hearing notice for the Scenic Road hearing on Wednesday August 20, 2008 with the Planning Board. Items as outlined by Guerwood Holmes as well as the stone wall repair work have been included in the notice. This notice will be returned to the Planning Board for posting and advertising.

The Board also reviewed two abutter letters, one to the residents of the condos at 61 North Road, who abut the line where the wall repair will take place. A second letter to the immediate abutters to this section of frontage on North Road was also reviewed. Both letters were signed. The statute was consulted and there is no requirement for notice to all residents of the roadway, outside of the publication of the Public Hearing notice twice, which the Planning Board will execute.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the payroll manifest \$23,662.70 and accounts payable manifest \$199,972.16 dated for 25 July 2008. Motion was made by Gates to approve the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$199,972.16. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0. Hunter then moved to approve the payroll manifest in the amount of \$23, 662.70. Gates seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

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2. Selectmen reviewed the Magnusson Farm Current Use application for 2009 on parcel 02-070. The Planning Board has completed their final release of the excavation permit, and closed the pit out. This application puts the one remaining acre of the parcel into current use. Gates moved to approve the current use application for one acre of land owned by Magnusson Farm for the 2009 tax year. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

3. Selectmen reviewed and signed outgoing correspondence to Abby Pelletier with new wage rate information.

4. Board members reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.

At 9:15 pm the Board took a 10 minute recess.

5. Selectmen reviewed an agreement for BTLA settlement with John & Brenda Galloway on parcel 05-009 as per abatements granted two weeks ago. There was discussion about the fact that the 2007 property taxes have not been paid at all, but the settlement agreement refers to giving the Galloway's a refund for that amount. The Board questioned if this could legally be done wherein those taxes are not paid.

Gates moved to approve the settlement to John & Benda Galloway contingent upon clarification of the statement that the 2007 taxes would be refunded (\$106.15 plus interest) which are not yet paid. If the matter can be clarified, Board members will come in next week to sign the document so the settlement can be filed with the NH Board of Tax and Land Appeals as quickly as possible.

6. Carlson presented June 2008 budget reports for the Board's review. There was some discussion about budgeting for 2009. The Board is looking toward level funding given current economic conditions, and the large shift in energy costs. Gates stated that he felt we needed to include the items that the Town needs.

There was discussion about the Meetinghouse painting which was not done this year due to the budget being \$5,000+ short of the bid to repaint the meetinghouse. We do now have an estimate from that bid process, and that will be included. Other items will be carefully considered.

The Budget Committee meets next on Wednesday August 13, 2008.

7. Selectmen reviewed an email from Mary Kaltenbach, President of the Fremont Garden Club. She had asked about removal of junipers at the Safety Complex which are not in good shape, and replacing them with low-growing evergreens and some perennials and bulbs. Carlson wanted to be sure of who had planted them, so as not to remove what had been a donation. Otherwise, the Board was not opposed to additional improvements there.

She also said the Club wanted to install a 5x7 or 8x10 plaque at the Town Hall (beside the Friendship Garden sign) in memory of Brande McLean, the Club's founder. The Board authorized this to be done by the Garden Club.

8. Selectmen reviewed a Cease and Desist Order prepared by Attorney Ryan for Tom Waters on parcel 02-106. This will be finalized by Thom Roy, Code Enforcement Officer, in conjunction with the Fremont Police Department.

9. Guerwood Holmes reported that he talked today with the NH DOT Highway Foreman out of Kingston. DOT is going to do the shoulder work needed on Beede Hill Road. They will put up signs warning drivers of low shoulders, until the work can be completed.

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10. In response to discussion last week, Guerwood Holmes also submitted information for the Board regarding an upcoming work plan. He will attend a meeting in two weeks to further review this with the Board. A few of the projects we are anticipating: cut big bull pine on Sandown Road, cut 12 inch elm on South Rd, cut big maple on Scribner Road, install 2 culvert extensions on Red Brook Road, hottop some bad sections on Leavitt and Shirkin Roads, install a catch basin on Sandown Road, cut high limbs on Sandown Road and all over Town where needed, build retaining wall on Leavitt Road at Brown Brook bridge, install new culvert on Shirkin Road near Tonas residence, continue doing drainage and shoulders all over Town. He indicated he is not sure if they can get to all these projects, but will do the most important first.

The Board would like to meet with Holmes on a regular basis to discuss work plans, and would like to get together soon about the 2009 budget process, as with the other large departments.

NEXT WEEK

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday July 31, 2008 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Gates and seconded by Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator